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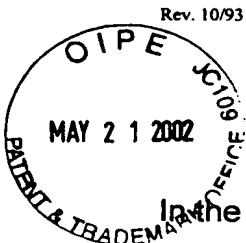
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

EDGAR N. RUDISILL ET AL.

CASE NO.: SS3161USNA

SERIAL NO.: 09/681,682

GROUP ART UNIT: 1733

FILED: MAY 21, 2001

EXAMINER: BARBARA J. MUSSER

FOR: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR
MAKING MULTI-LAYERED, MULTI-
COMPONENT FILAMENTSAMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231RECEIVED
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TC 1700

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 13, 2002, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain pending in the present application.

Nature of the Present Invention

The present invention is directed to a process and apparatuses for forming multi-layered filaments from thermoplastic synthetic polymers, wherein the polymers are separately melted and extruded into separate planar flow streams. The separate planar flow streams are then separately filtered and separately fed to a series of spinnerets, which maintain the separation of the polymer flow streams until the individual filaments exit the spinnerets, at which point the separate polymers are combined into the multi-layered filaments to be formed. In one embodiment, the separate polymer filaments exiting the spinnerets can be forced into contact with each other by fluid exiting fluid jets which are positioned adjacent to the spinneret exit orifices.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) Over Williams, Jr. et al.
In View Of Henne et al.**

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Williams, Jr. et al. In view of Henne et al. Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.